

electronically while 80 percent of all Medicare Part B claims were submitted in electronic formats. These numbers have continued to increase in the past year.

While these numbers are commendable, the providers who have not yet begun to submit claims electronically are a real concern. Allowing paper claims to be submitted indefinitely will require duplicative systems that will create additional costs and inefficiencies for the Medicare system.

The Administration has responded to this situation by proposing that by the beginning of fiscal year 2000 (October 1, 1999), any claims not submitted electronically will be subject to an administrative fee of \$1. Since that announcement, they have assumed an additional 6 month delay in implementation due to Y2K activities.

Unfortunately, however, such action is likely to have a disproportionate effect on smaller and rural providers that have been less aggressive in developing electronic information systems in their offices.

I understand that developing such systems is labor intensive and expensive. Therefore to accommodate those providers who have not yet developed the capability to submit paperless claims, my bill proposes that the administrative fees charged for claims submitted in paper format would become effective as of January 1, 2003.

In addition my bill would also grant the Secretary the power to waive the imposition of this administrative fee under certain circumstances, as she deems appropriate.

To facilitate the implementation of electronic submission, my bill would also require the Secretary to make public domain software readily available at no charge.

Converting to an all electronic claims system is a critical aspects of modernizing the Medicare program. In doing so, we must also be certain that we do not unfairly penalize providers in this process. My bill would allow providers ample time to get up to speed with the process prior to the imposition of administration fees for non-compliance.

The Paperless Claims Promotion Act of 1999 is the 10th in my series of Medicare modernizations. It is a sensible change to current law to move us an electronic filing system.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise today out of concern regarding funding for the Food

Contact Notification (FCN) program in H.R. 1906, the FY 2000 Agricultural, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This program is new and provides for the expeditious review of new food contact substances. Food contact substances are products like plastic, paper, and aluminum wraps that are used as containers for food products.

It is not commonly known that these materials must be reviewed for their safety before being marketed, because they touch food products. As a result, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 included FCN to reduce the time and cost involved in marketing a new food packaging material. Although FDA began the initial phase of setting up this program, with \$500,000 designated for the program in FY 1999, the program cannot continue unless the Congress provides \$3 million for FY 2000.

Mr. Chairman, this program is a terrific example of real regulatory reform—it reduces the agency's workload by streamlining regulation, reduces regulatory burdens on the plastics, paper, and aluminum industries, increases the potential for new and improved products to reach consumers, and does all these things without compromising public safety.

As you well know, the Congress is not able to fund every program and we have to make some very difficult choices. However, I believe it would be unfortunate to let this good idea languish. While the Administration and the Appropriations Committee may prefer funding this program with user fees, discussion of such a proposal has not even begun. Even if agreement was near, it will be difficult to enact the authorization this year. As we move to Conference, I urge the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Agricultural Appropriations Committee to seriously consider funding this program at the authorized level in the event that a fee system is not enacted in time for FY 2000.

WEAPONS LABORATORY SECURITY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the June 2, 1999, edition of the Omaha World-Herald, entitled "A Price For Lost Secrets." It speaks to the need to establish accountability for the intolerable security which has prevailed at Department of Energy weapons laboratory facilities.

[From Omaha World-Herald, June 2, 1999]

A PRICE FOR LOST SECRETS

Clinton administration official Bill Richardson said recently it was time to stop "looking for heads to roll" in response to the administration's failure to combat Chinese spying at U.S. nuclear facilities. He is wrong. For too long, the administration has been hiding behind the bromide that it's petty, mean-spirited and counterproductive to assess blame for the illegal distribution of FBI files, the reception of illegal foreign campaign donations, and other mess-ups in this administration.

Richardson is secretary of the Energy Department which supervises nuclear research

laboratories. Several years ago a career Energy intelligence officer began warning his Clinton-appointed supervisors that tax security, especially at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, was allowing China to steal nuclear secrets. The warning, initially dismissed by the Clintonites as alarmist nonsense, eventually was conveyed up the chain of command to key Cabinet members and the president. Still there was no meaningful response.

The Justice Department rejected the FBI's request for permission to conduct electronic surveillance of a scientist who now stands accused of transferring to China more than 1,000 classified files of nuclear secrets. Attorney General Janet Reno now is pointing fingers at subordinates, saying she was given bad advice.

It's good to see that pressure is building to the point that the attorney general is compelled to do the sort of scapegoating that Richardson wants to squelch. Reno ought to feel severe heat. If deputies did blow it and made Reno look bad, then they, too, ought to be seared in the crucible of public scrutiny.

The campaign for accountability ought to be applied across party lines. The current intelligence director at Energy said recently that Republican Richard Shelby, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, never responded to the FBI's 1997 proposal for \$12.5 billion worth of changes to fight nuclear spying. Shelby said that the committee already had begun working on counterintelligence measures in 1996 but that Energy ignored the Committee's recommendations.

Let debate continue on that and all other arguments about Chinese nuclear spying on American soil. This administration has bungled the most important duty of government—safeguarding the security of the nation. The people responsible ought to be exposed.

The Clinton administration, through the Democratic National Committee, received millions of illegal campaign dollars from Chinese sources while refusing to act on information that China was raiding the nuclear store. Corporations, that were major donors to the DNC were allowed to share prohibited technology with Chinese businesses as part of lucrative deals. And then there was Reno's thwarting of the FBI's pursuit of the suspected mole at Los Alamos. When will the president offer an explanation to rebut the evidence that something caused his administration to go out of its way to accommodate China?

Bring out the political guillotine.

TRIBUTE TO IVORY BROWN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I pay tribute to an exceptionally dedicated, compassionate, and distinguished member of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Ivory Brown, of Gary, Indiana. After teaching and coaching in the Gary Public School System for 41 years, Coach Ivory "Ike" Brown will retire on June 12, 1999. Upon completion of his last day, Mr. Brown will be honored at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana, with a final, formal salute from his friends and colleagues for his service, effort, and dedication.

In 1954 Coach Brown graduated from Roosevelt High School in Gary, Indiana, and enrolled as an undergraduate at Wiley College. He began his graduate work at Indiana University, where he earned his Master's degree. Mr. Brown continued his education at Texas Southern University where he took advance courses.

An educator and coach for more than four decades in the Gary Community School Corporation, Ivory Brown's accomplishments in the classroom and on the court are shining examples of the pride and dedication he exhibited in his work. Mr. Brown began his teaching career with the Gary Community School Corporation in 1958 where he served as an elementary, middle, and high school teacher until 1968. From 1969–1972, he was a driver education specialist and in 1972 until his retirement, he served as a physical education instructor and head basketball coach at West Side High School.

From the beginning of his coaching career, Ivory Brown has served as an inspiration to thousands of students, fans, and players at West Side High School and throughout Northwest Indiana. Through his tireless efforts, he has assisted more than one hundred fifty high school athletes in their pursuit of higher education by helping them obtain college scholarships in basketball and track.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Ivory "Ike" Brown for his lifetime of dedication, service, and leadership to the students and faculty of the Gary Community School Corporation, as well as the people of Northwest Indiana. Coach Brown's efforts as an educator and a basketball coach blended together to help kids make the most of their potential and earn their success in the world. Northwest Indiana's community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Mr. Ivory Brown.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HOUSE OF BENSONHURST

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst on the occasion of its 72nd Anniversary Celebration.

The members of the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents.

This year's gathering is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping others. This year's honorees truly represent the best of what our community has to offer.

Vic Damone, America's legendary vocalist and entertainer, is a Bensonhurst native and graduate of Lafayette High School. This year's recipient of the Coach Gold Alumni Achieve-

ment Award, Vic Damone has entertained audiences throughout the world and was recently presented with the prestigious Sammy Cahn Award by the Songwriters Hall of Fame. A JCH alumnus, Vic Damone remains friends with many JCH alumni including Larry King and Herb Cohen.

Gerry Farber, this year's recipient of the Joseph W. Press Humanitarian Award, has long been known as a supporter of early childhood education at the JCH. When the JCH needed support to renovate its nursery school in 1992, Gerry and his wife, Gail, were as there to help see it through. Recently, the Farbers created an endowment for the benefit of the JCH's early childhood programs. Gerry is a Bensonhurst native and an alumnus of the JCH and maintains close contact with fellow alums throughout the country. In 1975, Gerry joined the investment firm of Weiss, Peck & Greer and currently serves as the manager of its Farber-Weber Fund.

Each of this evening's honorees has long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by the Jewish Community Hour of Bensonhurst on the occasion of its 72nd anniversary celebration.

HONORING RUSSELL MAJOR

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Russell Major.

Russell Major devoted every single waking moment to making Englewood, New Jersey a city that could boast of being a haven for all people, regardless of their race, color or ethnic background.

The countless hours that Russell spent organizing sit-ins and circulating petitions to achieve this end were oriented particularly towards providing the children of Englewood with the opportunity to realize the American Dream. He rightly recognized that to deny a child an opportunity for a quality education is to deny that child a lifetime of opportunities.

Russell Major believed that every child should be educated in schools that are safe and well-maintained, schools that have access to advanced educational technology, and schools with classes that are small enough to facilitate the best teaching and learning.

On June 12, 1999, the Englewood Board of Education will be renaming the Liberty School after Russell Major. From now on, when the students walk into the Russell Major Liberty School on Tenafly Road, they will be walking into a school whose namesake embodies the values that they are being taught: tolerance, patience, fairness, vigilance, and excellence. These are the values that will help these young people realize the vision that Russell had for them and for all Americans, a vision that was grounded in family, community and education.

It was also a vision that enabled Russell Major to give of his heart, as much as he gave of his mind. And it was a vision that gained him the respect of every person who ever came into contact with him.

Russell Major fought to make the America he envisioned a reality for the people of Englewood and beyond. By renaming the Liberty School in Russell's memory, we are honoring his legacy and challenging future generations to continue his important work.

INTRODUCTION OF NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2086 the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 1999. And I recommend that all my colleagues join with Science Committee Ranking Member GEORGE BROWN, Congressman TOM DAVIS and 23 other Republican and Democrat Members of the Science Committee in cosponsoring this important bipartisan research initiative.

Two decades ago, the changes wrought by information technology were unimaginable. The scope and scale of the changes produced by the explosion in information technology are comparable to those created during the Industrial Revolution of the 17th and 18th centuries. But whereas the Industrial Revolution ushered in the era of the machine—symbolized by the steam engine, the factory, and the captain of industry—the Information Revolution promises to create the era of the mind—symbolized by the silicon chip, the microprocessor, and the high-tech entrepreneur.

Today, the United States is the undisputed global leader in computing and communications, and a healthy information-technology industry is a critical component of U.S. economic and National security. The impact of information technology on the economy is telling. It represents one of the fastest growing sectors of the U.S. economy, growing at an annual rate of 12 percent between 1993 and 1997. Since 1992, businesses producing computers, semiconductors, software, and communications equipment have accounted for one-third of the economic growth in the U.S.

Fundamental information-technology research has played an essential role in fueling the Information Revolution and creating new industries and millions of new, high-paying jobs. But maintaining the Nation's global leadership in information technology will require keeping open the pipeline of new ideas, technologies, and innovations that flow from fundamental research. Although the private sector provides the lion's share of the research funding, its spending tends to focus on short-term, applied work. The Federal Government, therefore, has a critical role to play in supporting the long-term, basic research the private sector requires but is ill-suited to pursue.

However, as the Congressionally-chartered President's Information Technology Advisory